

REMARKS

I. Preliminary Matters

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Of these, claims 2 and 3 are allowed, claims 6, 7 and 10 are objected to, and claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are rejected.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,817). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an optical engine comprising:

“wherein the path of the illumination is aligned to correspond for the whole image produced in the image producer to be projected on the screen by adjusting the mirror device.”

The Examiner alleges Ogawa discloses the “path of the illumination is aligned to correspond for the whole image produced in the image producer to be projected on the screen by adjusting the mirror device” feature of claim 1 (Office Action, page 2). The Examiner cites col. 10, lines 50-59 as disclosing this feature. However, Ogawa discloses a color separating optical system 924 which separates the white light flux W into red, green and blue color light fluxes using three liquid crystal light valves.¹ The Applicant respectfully submits the separated light going into these valves may be adjusted, but not the whole image. Therefore, Ogawa does not disclose the path of illumination being aligned to correspond for the whole image feature of claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

¹ This system also includes a color separating optical system 924 which separates the white light flux W emitted from the integrator optical system 923 into the red, green, and blue color light fluxes, i.e., R, G, and B, three liquid crystal light valves 925R, 925G, and 925B which serve as light valves for modulating the color light fluxes, a prism unit 910 serving as a color synthesizing system for re-synthesizing the modulated color fluxes, and a projecting lens unit 6 for performing enlarged projection of the synthesized light flux on the surface of a screen 100. (Ogawa, col. 8, lines 24-35).

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al in view of Bassi et al (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0231261). Claims 5, and 9 have been amended and as such are allowable.

Claim 4 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 because of its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 5, as amended, recites analogous limitations as claim 1 and is patentable at least for analogous reasons. Claim 8 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 5 because of its dependency on claim 5.

Claim 9, as amended, recites analogous limitations as claim 1 and is patentable at least for analogous reasons.

Moreover, Bassi does not overcome the deficiencies noted in the teachings of Ogawa.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 7, 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant respectfully requests holding the status of the allowable claims in abeyance until after the resolution of all the remaining issues related to patentability of the independent claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 2 and 3.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 10/674,457

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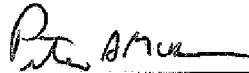
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Peter A. McKenna
Registration No. 38,551

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